## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA (1) BILLY D. "RUSTY" RHOADES III, an individual; (2) MEGAN L. SIMPSON, an individual; and (3) MICHAEL S. HARRELL, an individual, Plaintiffs, Case No. CIV-20-761-R v. (1) THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT; (2) THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ) SAFETY; (3) KEVIN STITT, an individual; (4) CHIP KEATING, an individual; ) (5) JASON NELSON, an individual; ) (6) JOE CLARO, an individual, Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF CHIP KEATING TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA ON OCTOBER 5, 2022

REPORTED BY KERRY L. HUFF, CSR #1725



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1
                          CHIP KEATING,
 2
       The Witness, having been first duly sworn to
   testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
 3
   the truth, answered in reply to the questions asked,
 4
 5
   as follows, to-wit:
 6
 7
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
 8
   BY MR. HOPSON:
 9
          Mr. Keating, good morning.
10
      Α.
          Morning.
11
          My name is Dustin Hopson. I am the attorney
12
   for Rusty Rhoades, Megan Simpson and Mike Harrell.
13
   We're here to conduct your deposition today.
14
   understand that. Correct?
15
      Α.
          Correct.
16
          And you've given depositions in the past?
17
      Α.
          I have.
18
          And in fact you gave a deposition in the Troy
19
   German matter. I believe that was about a year ago?
20
      A.
          Correct.
21
          The rules for the deposition are going to be
22
   very similar so I'm going to kind of gloss over them
23
   pretty quickly. You're sworn in under oath and agree
24
   to testify and tell the truth today. Right?
25
          Correct.
      Α.
```

```
All right.
                      And you're going to continue to
   give verbal answers rather than nods of the head or
   shakes of the head?
 3
      Α.
          Correct.
 4
 5
      0.
          Because we have a court reporter she has to
 6
   take everything down. You understand that?
 7
      Α.
         Yes.
 8
         All right. If you need a break at any time,
      Q.
 9
   would you just ask me, and I'll be happy to
   accommodate you?
10
11
         Okay.
      Α.
12
          All right. If I ask you a question, it's
13
   important that you understand it. If you do not
   understand my question, will you ask me to repeat it
14
15
   or rephrase it and I will accommodate you as to that?
16
      Α.
          I will.
         All right. Would you please state your full
17
18
   name for the record.
19
      Α.
          Anthony Frances Keating, III.
20
      Q.
          And you go by Chip. Correct?
21
      Α.
          Yes.
22
          All right. And what is your current job
23
   title?
24
      A.
          I'm self-employed.
```

All right. And what is the name of your

25

Q.

```
Chip Keating 10/5/2022
   company?
 1
 2
      Α.
          Keating Investments.
 3
          Is that a company you own entirely, or do you
   own that with others?
 4
 5
      Α.
          I own it entirely.
 6
          What does Keating Investments do?
      0.
 7
          Oil and gas and real estate investing.
 8
          How long have you been the owner of Keating
      0.
 9
   Investments?
10
      Α.
           Thirteen years.
11
           Do you own any other companies?
      Q.
12
           There's multiple companies under the --
      Α.
13
          Under the umbrella of --
      Q.
          Correct.
14
      Α.
15
          -- Keating Investments?
      Q.
16
      Α.
          Yes.
17
          All right. Can you tell me the names of some
18
   of those other companies?
         Let's see. Poppy Pay, Energy 11, Energy
19
      Α.
20
   Resources 12, 111 Reality, Rock Creek Capital.
21
         Do any of those companies deal with any
22
   activities or contracts associated with the state of
23
   Oklahoma?
```

They're all investment or holding companies?

24

25

A.

Q.

No.

```
A. They're private companies.
```

- 2 Q. I'm sorry. Did --
- A. Or the two energy companies are public
- 4 companies.

- 5 Q. Which are those two?
- 6 A. Energy 11 and 12.
- 7 Q. Publically traded?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Just publically --
- 10 A. They're public non-traded vehicles.
- 11 Q. Do you have any current position or role at
- 12 the State of Oklahoma?
- 13 A. I am the chair of the Unified Law Enforcement
- 14 Consolidation Commission.
- 15 Q. What is that commission?
- 16 A. It's a statutory commission that was created
- 17 last legislative session to study law enforcement
- 18 unification within state agencies.
- 19 Q. You said last session. You mean the 2022
- 20 session, this year?
- 21 A. '21 session.
- 22 Q. The 2021 session. All right. Tell me about
- 23 law enforcement unification. What does that entail?
- A. So it is a commission of, gosh, agency heads
- 25 of DPS, OBN, OSBI, the secretary of public safety,

```
Chip Keating 10/5/2022
   still Senator Kim David and Representative John
   Echols -- I think that's it -- to study unifying
   those three agencies into one umbrella.
 3
      Q. Which three agencies are we talking about?
 4
 5
   DPS, OBN and OSBI?
 6
      A. Correct.
 7
      Q. All right. And you said that you sit on that
   commission. Do you hold a -- is there -- I'm sorry.
 9
   Strike that. You said you're the chair of that
   commission?
10
11
      A. Correct.
12
      Q. All right. And you said the secretary of
13
   public safety, Senator Kim David, Representative John
   Echols are also on that committee?
14
15
      A. Correct. And the attorney general. I left
16
   the AG out.
17
         And the attorney general. All right. Anyone
18
   else?
19
      A. I -- I think that's right. I don't have it in
20
   front of me.
21
      Q. How long have you been the chair of that
22
   committee?
23
         I think probably two weeks after it was
```

Q. Now, at some point you were the secretary of

24

25

statutorily created.

```
public safety. Correct?
 1
 2
      Α.
          Correct.
 3
          What was the beginning and end date to your
   service as secretary of public safety?
 4
 5
         Somewhere around March of '19 through December
 6
   of '20.
 7
      Q. Okay. All right. I want to go through a
   little bit of background before I get into your
 9
   service as secretary of public safety. What is your
   education history? What's your -- where did you go
10
11
   to high school?
12
          Bishop Mcquinness.
      Α.
13
          And what year did you graduate?
      Q.
14
          1998.
      Α.
15
          And you attended I believe SMU; is that
16
   correct?
17
      Α.
          Correct.
18
          And you graduated from SMU?
19
      Α.
          I did.
20
      Q.
          What year?
21
      Α.
          2001.
22
      Q.
          With what degree?
23
      Α.
          A BBA.
          Any other higher education degrees?
24
      Q.
25
          No.
      Α.
```

```
(By Mr. Hopson) Okay.
                                  And you told us you've
 1
 2
   known Mike Hunter since you were 16. How long have
   you known Kevin Stitt?
 3
          Since the fall of 2018.
 4
 5
         And you told us that it was about two years
 6
   ago that you considered Mike Hunter no longer to be a
 7
   friend of yours in association with you working for
 8
   Kevin Stitt. Right?
 9
          MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
10
          THE WITNESS:
                        I want to be clear.
11
   Hunter's a family friend of my father. I would
12
   consider more of an acquaintance from being around --
13
   obviously my dad's my dad. So there was a
   professional relationship with Mike Hunter, but it's
14
15
   not like I'm having dinner with him nor have I ever
16
   had dinner with him. So I don't know what quantifies
17
   a friendship. I would consider him more of an
   acquaintance.
18
19
          (By Mr. Hopson) Okay. So to back up and be
20
   clear and make the record clear, you never considered
21
   Mike Hunter a friend. Is that your testimony?
22
      A.
          I would consider him an acquaintance.
23
          My question was with whether you ever
24
   considered him to be a friend.
25
          Well, I consider a lot of people friends.
      Α.
```

- A. The Oklahoma State Troopers Foundation.
- Q. When did you start the Oklahoma State Troopers
- 3 Foundation?

- 4 A. Approximately 2016. It was shortly after
- 5 Lieutenant Heath Meyers was killed. Probably the
- 6 fall of '16.
- 7 Q. What is the mission or purpose of the Oklahoma
- 8 | State Troopers Foundation?
- 9 A. When it was started or today?
- 10 Q. Fair point. When it was started what was the
- 11 mission or purpose of the Oklahoma State Troopers
- 12 | Foundation?
- 13 A. To provide financial support for line-of-duty
- 14 deaths, incapacitating injuries and mental wellness.
- Q. What is the mission as it stands today?
- 16 A. Really geared towards mental wellness more.
- 17 Q. What is the reason that has changed over the
- 18 years?
- 19 A. Well, I mean, you know, hopefully we don't
- 20 have line-of-duty deaths to deal with.
- 21 Q. Certainly.
- 22 A. And so the direction of the foundation -- we
- 23 will still assist in those if they, heaven forbid,
- 24 happen, but the mental wellness is a real issue that
- 25 needs to be addressed. It's become a passion of

- Case 5:20-cv-00761-R Document 71-4 Filed 02/22/23 Page 10 of 27 Chip Keating 10/5/2022 patrol and troopers and wanting to help, you know, 2 make things better, and that's my way of giving back. Q. So is that still the case today, the patrol is 3 a passion of yours? 4 5 Α. Yeah. Why is that? 6 Q. 7 Because I was a state trooper. 8 And you've had friends who were also state 9 troopers? I still have friends. 10 And that was my next question. You still have 11 friends who are troopers? 12 13 Α. Correct. When you were a state Oklahoma -- I'm sorry. 14 15 When you were a Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper from 16 2001 until roughly 2005 -- is that correct? 17 I think the summer of '4.
- Q. Okay. When you were a highway patrolman, what
- 19 troop were you assigned to?
- 20 A. Troop B initially.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Then Troop A.
- Q. What was Troop B assigned to? Was it assigned
- 24 to a specific area? Was it assigned to a specific
- 25 duty? Can you describe that for me?

```
Α.
          Bob's health wasn't good and Melissa wasn't
 2
   interested.
      Q. All right. Following your meeting with Rusty
 3
   Rhoades and Kevin Stitt around the election of 2018,
 4
   when did you either become interested in or become
 6
   approached to become a member of the Stitt
 7
   administration?
 8
      A. To be clear, I was never interested in that
 9
   job. I was approached late January, early February,
10
   2019.
11
         And the job we're talking about is secretary
12
   of public safety?
13
      Α.
          Correct.
          Cabinet position?
14
      Q.
15
      Α.
          Correct.
16
          Cabinet position, it's a volunteer position?
      Q.
17
      Α.
          Correct.
18
          Cabinet position that's a volunteer position
   that does not have any established statutory duties
20
   that you're aware of?
21
         Not that I'm aware of.
22
          Do you consider the statutes of the state of
23
   Oklahoma to be important?
24
          MR. SHINN: Object to form.
25
          THE WITNESS:
                         It's the law.
```

```
you came to select him as your -- was his title the
 2
   deputy secretary of public safety?
 3
      A.
          Correct.
          How was it that you came to choose Jason
 4
 5
   Nelson?
 6
         Jason has been -- I've known Jason -- he
 7
   worked for my father, gosh, probably since the
   mid '90s, and a former member of the house -- state
 9
   house and he helped me on my campaign when I ran for
   the state house in 2005 unsuccessfully.
10
11
          Who did you run against?
12
          David Dank.
      Α.
13
          What was Jason Nelson's role on your 2005
14
   campaign?
15
      Α.
          He was a volunteer.
16
          Now, there's not any statutory provision
17
   setting forth the position of deputy secretary of
   public safety. Correct?
18
19
      Α.
          Correct.
20
          That's a position that you created?
      Q.
21
          MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
22
          THE WITNESS: The governor did.
23
          (By Mr. Hopson) Okay. Did the governor
24
   approach you and ask you to appoint a deputy, or did
25
   you approach the governor and ask to appoint a
```

```
deputy?
```

2

4

7

22

23

24

- A. As a condition for taking the job, I told him I would require having someone to help me because I 3 run a lot of businesses.
- 5 Q. Okay. So that was your requirement, not the 6 governor's. Right?
  - A. Correct.
- 8 Q. All right. And the governor did what you 9 asked him to do and agreed to allow somebody to hire a deputy for you? 10
- 11 Correct. To help with a lot of the day-to-day 12 stuff that comes as a requirement of the cabinet 13 secretary in reviewing a lot of paperwork, signing a lot of paperwork and I needed help. 14
- 15 Q. Okay. If -- sorry. Is it your position that 16 the governor can assign or hire anyone he wants to help you in the position of cabinet secretary? 17
- 18 A. I mean I think the governor has -- runs the 19 executive branch of government and probably has broad 20 authority to bring people on to run services in 21 government.
  - Okay. Is it your position or belief that the governor, by virtue of being -- running the executive branch of government -- is it your position that he can hire or terminate anyone that works for the state

```
out of the DPS budget at least in part, isn't it true
 2
   that Jason Nelson was categorized as a special
   assistant to Commissioner Rusty Rhoades in order to
 3
   establish that paycheck?
 4
          I don't recall that.
 5
 6
          Jason Nelson could not be a superior officer
 7
   to the commissioner of public safety. Correct?
 8
          MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
 9
          THE WITNESS: Jason Nelson is still not a
   superior officer to any agency head.
10
11
          (By Mr. Hopson) That's right. He's never
12
   been.
13
      Α.
          No.
          Correct? In your role as secretary of public
14
15
   safety, did you consider yourself to be a superior
16
   officer or employee to the commissioner of DPS?
17
          Didn't think myself to be superior to anybody.
      Α.
18
          Okay.
      Q.
19
      Α.
          I served at the pleasure of the governor --
20
          Okay.
      Q.
21
          -- as his liaison.
      Α.
22
          Did you have authority to instruct, command,
   discipline or otherwise supervise the commissioner of
23
24
   DPS?
25
          Delegated authority from the governor.
      Α.
```

```
governor still being governor elect.
 1
                                           I'm not sure.
   It was in that timeframe.
          So you had the trip and the communications
 3
   with Senator Treat?
 4
 5
      Α.
          Correct.
 6
          And then sometime after that you talked to
 7
   Rusty Rhoades by phone or in person?
 8
      Α.
          Both.
          And was that also in 2018 or was it in 2019?
 9
          2018, early '19.
10
          Okay. All right. And what is your
11
   understanding of the German investigation?
12
13
          MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
           (By Mr. Hopson) Do you have any understanding
14
      Q.
15
   of the German investigation?
16
      Α.
          No.
         Have you ever read or reviewed the report that
17
   Troop Z did about whatever it found in that
18
19
   investigation?
20
      Α.
          No.
21
          Did you ever talk to the agent that handled
22
   that investigation?
23
          The agent?
      Α.
24
          The trooper that was assigned to
```

investigate --

```
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                    Chip Keating 10/5/2022
                                                                    68
      Α.
 1
           Okay.
 2
      0.
           -- that matter?
 3
      Α.
          No.
           You may have talked to that person, but did
 4
 5
   you ever talk to that person about the investigation?
 6
           Troop Z folk? No. Never.
      Α.
 7
          Did you ever talk to any trooper that
   participated in interviews of anyone associated with
 9
   that investigation?
10
      Α.
          No.
11
          Has anyone to this day ever told you about
12
   what the findings of that investigation were?
13
      Α.
           No.
           Is that important for you to know?
14
      Q.
15
      Α.
          No.
16
      Q.
           Why not?
17
           Because I have nothing to do with it.
      Α.
           Okay. In your role as secretary of public
   safety, were you the conduit between the governor and
```

- 18
- 19
- 20 DPS?
- Yes. A liaison. 21 Α.
- 22 Okay. And would you say that your primary
- 23 role in that job is to provide good information up
- 24 and down between the governor's office and the
- 25 agency?

```
discussions with anybody at all related to the Troy
 2
   German matter?
          Late spring, yes, couple different
 3
                We need to establish the dates here.
   discussions.
 4
 5
      Q. Okay. Well, let's back up. First of all, how
   many specific discussions do you recall that you know
 7
   of?
 8
      A. It was a very widely-known matter all over the
 9
   newspapers but specific discussions -- I had one with
   Megan Simpson on the heels of a meeting that Gary
10
   James requested with me and Mark Burget at the time
11
12
   who was general counsel for the governor's office.
13
      Q. Okay. Put those conversations in time context
   for me. Do you know when you had each of those
14
15
   conversations?
16
      A. I don't know the exact dates. It was in the
17
   spring of '19. The first meeting though was with
   Gary James --
18
19
      Q.
          Okay. Tell me --
20
      A.
          -- which resulted in the meeting followup with
21
   Megan.
22
         Okay. Tell me about the meeting with Gary --
   first of all, who is Gary James?
23
24
      A. I believe he's the Oklahoma State Troopers
25
   Association's legal counsel or -- I don't know his
```

```
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                    Chip Keating 10/5/2022
   title.
 1
 2
      0.
           Okay. How long have you known Gary James?
           When did I first meet him?
 3
      Α.
 4
          Yes.
      0.
 5
      Α.
           Probably when I became a trooper in '01.
 6
          And when you became a trooper in '01 and met
 7
   Gary James, what was his job or role or duty?
 8
      A. Well, I couldn't even tell you how I met him.
 9
   Just in passing his name was kind of known because he
   was the patrol's attorney if you were going to use
10
11
   force. I believe he still is today.
12
      Q. So if there's a use-of-force case or shooting
13
   or something like that, potentially there could be
14
   criminal exposure to the trooper. Correct?
15
      Α.
          Correct.
16
          And civil exposure to the trooper. Correct?
      0.
17
      Α.
          Correct.
```

- 18 Do you know if Gary James represented people
- 19 on civil matters, criminal matters or both?
- 20 A. I don't know.
- 21 And are you familiar with that sort of
- 22 use-of-force litigation or --
- 23 Α. No.
- 24 -- action? Okay. Needless to say, in such
- 25 actions Gary James would represent the trooper in

```
months?
 1
 2
      A. My schedule -- it could have been a couple
 3
   weeks.
 4
      0.
           Okay.
 5
      Α.
           Yeah. I mean it was not six months.
 6
          Wasn't the next day?
      0.
 7
      Α.
          No.
 8
           Was it -- do you know if it was the following
      0.
 9
   week?
           Within a couple weeks we met.
10
      Α.
11
          Where was this meeting at?
      Q.
12
          At my office.
      A.
13
          I believe you told us that it was yourself,
14
   Gary James and Mr. Burget?
15
      Α.
           Correct.
16
      Q.
          Anyone else?
17
      Α.
          No.
18
          What happened at that meeting?
19
      Α.
           Golly, he met in there for several hours. It
20
   wouldn't end. The guy got all emotional, started
21
   crying. I mean it was just a lot.
22
      Q.
           Gary James got emotional and was crying?
23
      Α.
           Yeah.
24
      Q.
           Did you think that was odd?
25
      Α.
          Maybe he's a sensitive guy. I guess so.
```

```
Q. What was he emotional and crying over?

A. I don't recall what but I just thought, Why is
```

Q. What was the information that he provided during the meeting?

he getting so emotional about all these things.

- A. Basic high level, really no -- down in the weeds -- that essentially that Mr. German was being -- some unduly targeted and some other guys were on leave unjustly because they were whistle
- 10 blowing on Troy German and I mean that was the
- 11 context of it. High level. But I don't remember all 12 the detail in it.
- Q. Who were the guys that were on leave for whistle blowing on Troy German?
- 15 A. Tim Tipton and Jack McCoy.
- Q. And Gary James told you he believed that those two were being retaliated against?
- 18 A. Correct.

3

4

- 19 Q. What were the actions that Tim Tipton and Jack
- 20 McCoy had supposedly done that were drawing
- 21 retaliation from people at DPS?
- A. He didn't share them with me.
- Q. Why not?
- MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
- 25 THE WITNESS: I dont' know.

```
privilege issues here so --
 2
          MR. HOPSON: Well, I'm not asking about
   communications. I'm asking what was the information
 3
   that he asked you to look into.
 4
 5
          MR. SHINN: Right. If he's trying to render
 6
   legal advice and he's asking for information -- to
 7
   gather information so that he can render legal
   advice, I mean we would be a little careful. I just
 9
   want to make sure you don't disclose any
   attorney-client privilege communications that you're
10
11
   aware of.
12
      Q. (By Mr. Hopson) Well, let me ask it this way.
13
   What information from Gary James was provided during
   the meeting that you were asked to look into?
14
15
      A. To have a conversation again with Rusty about
16
   this meeting which I did.
17
      Q. Would it have interested you at the time to
   know that Gary James had paid Tim Tipton to be an
18
19
   expert witness on behalf of his clients?
20
      Α.
          No.
21
         If Tim Tipton had been implicated in the
22
   Troop Z investigation as complicit in efforts to hide
23
   information from Troy German, would that have
24
   interested you at the time of that meeting?
25
      A. Look, I'll listen to whomever. I'm an
```

```
governor's dissatisfied and, you know, there needs to
 2
   be changes, like, big time quickly.
          What was the governor dissatisfied about?
 3
      Q.
          I think the -- I can't speak for the governor,
 4
   but I think the governor -- I want to be very clear.
   I went out on a limb and was Rusty's biggest
 7
             Frankly probably the sole reason he was
   reappointed to being the commissioner was because of
 9
   me.
10
          And the governor, probably end of April or
   May, he's in accountability, efficiency. He wanted
11
12
   to see sweeping changes within the agency, and the
13
   governor had told me on a number of occasions he had
   questions whether Rusty was going to be able to
14
15
   execute on those and said he's a nice guy and a
16
   likable guy but not sure he can get this where I want
17
   it to go.
18
         Okay. Did you ever communicate that to Rusty
19
   before this one-off meeting?
20
      A. Yeah. We were in several meetings and a lot
21
   of through governor security and a number of things
22
   and again I'm trying to be the cheerleader and help.
23
         Okay. Rusty was appointed and confirmed in
24
   what month?
25
         Well, I think he was appointed in January and
```

```
by Troop Z of the highway patrol at that time?
 1
 2
      Α.
           Don't know.
          So my point is it's very plausible that Gary
 3
   James had a motive in coming to meet with you on
 4
 5
   behalf of his friend, Tim Tipton. Right?
 6
          You'd have to ask Gary James that.
      Α.
 7
          Or Tim Tipton?
      Q.
 8
          Or Tim Tipton.
      Α.
 9
          Who was under investigation. Right?
      Q.
          So I was told. And Jack McCoy.
10
          If somebody on behalf of Tim Tipton and Jack
11
12
   McCoy wanted to interfere or end an investigation but
13
   couldn't do so through the proper procedures of going
   through the chain of command at the Oklahoma Highway
14
15
   Patrol, is it fair to say that one way they could do
16
   that is by going around that chain of command and
17
   going to you and request a meeting?
18
          Yeah. But it didn't end the investigation.
      Α.
19
      0.
          It didn't?
20
      Α.
          No.
21
          Okay. How long did the investigation go on
22
   after that meeting with Gary James?
23
          You'd have to ask John Scully and Chief Sugg.
      Α.
24
                 Because John Scully and Chief Sugg were
25
   the ones that concluded that investigation. Right?
```

```
Α.
          That's my understanding.
 1
 2
          After they replaced the plaintiffs as head of
   DPS and the highway patrol?
 3
          Sometime thereafter. Correct.
 4
 5
          Okay. Because the head of DPS and highway
 6
   patrol, specifically Rusty Rhoades and his
 7
   administration, would not conclude those
 8
   investigations for Gary James. Correct?
 9
      Α.
          They weren't asked to.
          Why not?
10
      Q.
11
          You'd have to ask Gary James. No one asked
12
   them to conclude investigations.
13
         And so it wasn't until he put this issue in
   front of you that that began to gain scrutiny at any
14
1.5
   time.
          Correct?
16
          MR. SHINN: Object to the form.
17
          THE WITNESS: No.
                              The scrutiny was gained
18
   after Rusty and I had our meeting in August. And I
19
   called the general and then subsequently after the
20
   criminal charges were dismissed in June or whatever
   the date was -- June 28th -- my only thing with
21
22
   Rusty -- he didn't know why it was dismissed.
23
          We talked about it -- was to get a release and
24
   then subsequently my radars went way up when I got
```

forwarded a civil lawsuit from Troy German to the

```
A. Not the day what happened?
```

- Q. Not the day that the separation from
- 3 employment happened?

- 4 A. Well, my point is -- when was the decision
- 5 made? The decision was made the day it happened.
- 6 Like, that's when it happened. It speaks for itself.
- 7 Q. Well, my question, which you just answered and
- 8 told me was late August -- my question was when was
- 9 the moment that Governor Stitt decided to separate
- 10 Rusty Rhoades, Megan Simpson, Mike Harrell from their
- 11 employment with the agency?
- MR. SHINN: Object to the form. You can
- 13 answer if you know.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
- 15 Q. (By Mr. Hopson) Who would know that?
- 16 A. I don't know.
- MR. SHINN: Object to the form. Asked and
- 18 answered.
- 19 Q. (By Mr. Hopson) Governor Stitt would know
- 20 that. Correct?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. You don't know if the governor even would know
- 23 when the governor made the decision?
- 24 A. I don't know when the date of the meeting that
- 25 Junk and Donelle and John Budd sat down with the

```
I have no idea.
 1
   governor.
 2
          I didn't ask about the date that --
          Okay. But that would be likely the day that
 3
      Α.
   the decision was made to --
 4
 5
      0.
          Likely? Likely, right?
 6
          Likely because I don't know.
      Α.
 7
          That's my point. You don't know when the
 8
   governor made the decision to terminate?
 9
      Α.
           Fair.
                  So going back on our list of events we
10
          Okay.
   had the phone call with Budd, Junk and Harder and
11
12
   then you believe at some point there was a meeting
13
   with Budd, Junk and Harder and the governor?
         I don't know of all of them in there but,
14
15
   yeah.
16
          And do you know -- you weren't there for that
17
   meeting?
18
         No.
      Α.
19
      Q.
          What was your next involvement following that
20
   meeting?
21
      A. One of the three of them would have reached
22
   out, likely John Budd, because at the time I think he
23
   had OMES under his purview. I think he was actually
24
   head of that agency as well as chief operating
25
   officer, but I'm not 100-percent certain on that.
```

```
1
   you meany by he's the governor.
 2
          That's not what I said. I didn't say that.
          Well, isn't it true as you told us before that
 3
      Q.
   the statutes of Oklahoma say that the governor is the
 4
   person with the authority to hire or terminate the
 6
   commissioner of DPS, not the deputy secretary of
 7
   public safety. Right?
 8
      A. It is true that the governor delegated his
 9
   authority formally to the deputy secretary to follow
   through with his orders.
10
11
         Okay. Okay. So you don't know why the
12
   governor didn't do it himself?
13
          I don't know why.
      Α.
         Let me show you what is marked as Exhibit 39.
14
15
   We have already done exhibits in this case.
16
   just carrying on the numbering. That's 39.
   you to take a look at that and let me know if you
17
18
   recognize that document. Do you recognize that
   document?
19
20
      A.
          I do.
21
          What is that document?
      Q.
22
      Α.
          These are my interrogatory responses.
23
          These are your answers to discovery to
24
   plaintiff, Rusty Rhoades. Correct?
25
          Correct.
      Α.
```